

Hattie Thomas/R7/USEPA/US

To

02/22/2012 04:15 PM

cc

bcc Karl Brooks

Subject OPA Daily Digest for 2/22/12

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Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. William Lacy Clay (Mo.) – Phone inquiry – 2/22/12: Status update on the redevelopment and Brownfields assessment at the Pruitt Igo property in St. Louis. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. William Lacy Clay (Mo.) – Email – 2/21/12: Requests an update on the status of the Feasibility Study for West Lake Landfill Superfund site. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

Rep. Todd Akin (Mo.) – Letter – 2/7/12: Concerns about soil test data and analysis conducted on Strecker Forest Development property in the city of Wildwood. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Lee Terry (Neb.) – Meeting 2/2/12: Requesting latest update on Omaha site and access agreements. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (Neb.): Meeting 2/2/12: Requesting information on Brownfield and Superfund sites in Nebraska. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Sen. Ben Nelson (Neb.): Meeting 2/3/12: Requesting that EPA attend a meeting with the Norfolk Chamber of Council – Green Council. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Rep. Bruce Braley (Iowa.) – Telephone 2/22/12: Requests latest on Western Dubuque Biodiesel and Indoor Air Quality Standards. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Kansas City Star – Mike McGraw – 2/16/12: Questions about civil enforcement actions involving large concentrated animal feeding operations. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

Omaha World-Herald – Nancy Gaarder – 2/21/12: Questions about sewer improvement projects in Omaha, Neb. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (open)

KWMU Public Radio, St. Louis – Veronique LaCapra – 2/22/12: Questions regarding West Lake Landfill. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7433 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

Lincoln Journal Star - Terry doubts Obama will approve pipeline - 2/21/12 - Rep. Lee Terry said Monday he believes President Barack Obama probably will reject a new Keystone XL pipeline application next year if he is re-elected. That assumption, the Republican congressman from Omaha said, impels him to continue to press for congressional action this year.

<http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/federal-politics/terry-doubts-obama-ever-would-approve-ke>

ystone-pipeline/article_329bbd6c-0829-5ee8-bfce-8fbba1f1c566.html

Associated Press - Nuke plant to be discussed - 2/22/12 - Federal regulators will get another update on a Nebraska utility's plan to repair and restart a nuclear power plant that has been shut down since last spring. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission planned to meet with Omaha Public Power District officials Wednesday to discuss the Fort Calhoun nuclear power plant, which is just north of Omaha.
<http://www.omaha.com/article/20120222/NEWS01/702229837>

Des Moines Register - Utility: Gas-fired plant possible - 2/21/12 - MidAmerican Energy President William Fehrman said Tuesday that if Iowa legislators won't let it recover costs for a nuclear power plant, then MidAmerican would build a natural gas-fired plant.
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20120222/BUSINESS/302220023/1029/>

Kansas City Business Journal - Kansas City Southern tracks new locomotives with \$55 million federal loan - 2/22/12 - Federal transportation officials are loaning Kansas City Southern \$54.6 million to buy 39 new locomotives. U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said in a release that the new General Electric locomotives will both help KC Southern meet increased customer demand and reduce fuel usage and pollution.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/news/2012/02/22/kansas-city-southern-tracks-new.html>

Omaha World Herald - OPPD: No excuses for nuclear plant problems - 2/22/12 - Omaha Public Power District officials told federal regulators Wednesday they would make no excuses for problems at the utility's Fort Calhoun nuclear plant. The facility has faced various challenges, including a fire and last summer's flooding, and it is now subject to enhanced oversight from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
<http://jaystoday.com/article/20120222/NEWS01/120229754>

Des Moines Register - Regulators discuss Missouri River nuclear plant recovery - 2/22/12 - Omaha Public Power District officials say they need to get better at identifying and fixing any concerns that arise at Fort Calhoun nuclear power plant. Top OPPD officials met with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission Wednesday to discuss the plan for repairing and restarting Fort Calhoun.
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20120222/NEWS/302220085/1001/>

Radon Leaders (blog) - EPA Budget for FY13 - Radon Cuts - 2/21/12 - As many of you may have already heard, the President's budget for FY13 (beginning October 1, 2012) was released this week and includes the zeroing out of the State Indoor Radon Grants program and regional oversight efforts.
<http://www.radonleaders.org/node/16925>

Chicago Tribune - Emanuel gives coal plant operator an ultimatum to clean up - 2/23/12 - After months of negotiations, Mayor Rahm Emanuel is giving the owner of Chicago's two coal-fired power plants until next week to figure out how to clean up some of the city's biggest sources of lung-damaging pollution. <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/ct-met-coal-plants-20120223.0,4358715.story>

CNN - EPA dioxin assessment raises red flag for some - 2/21/12 - Nearly three decades in the making, EPA recently announced its landmark dioxin assessment with the conclusion: "Generally, over a person's lifetime, current exposure to dioxins does not pose a significant health risk." But Dr. Arnold J. Schechter, a University of Texas professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, says dioxins pose a risk for fetuses, newborns and people with immune deficiencies such as AIDS patients.
<http://thechart.blogs.cnn.com/2012/02/22/epa-dioxin-assessment-raises-red-flag-for-some/>

Food Safety News - After Long Delay, EPA Releases Dioxin Assessment - 2/22/12 - After decades of consideration, EPA has released a final assessment on the health impact of dioxins, for the first time setting a toxicological threshold for non-cancer risks posed by exposure to the chemicals.
<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/02/after-long-delay-epa-releases-dioxin-assessment/>

Waste Management World - EPA Publishes Long Awaited Dioxin Study - 2/21/12 - Over the course of a lifetime, the average person has nothing to fear from current dioxin exposure levels, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which has published its much anticipated non-cancer

science assessment for dioxins - last reviewed in the 1980s.

http://www.waste-management-world.com/index/display/article-display/2476386013/articles/waste-management-world/markets-policy-finance/2012/02/EPA_Publishes_Long_Awaited_Dioxin_Study_.html

Ethanol Producer Magazine - Retailers want liability protection before considering E15 - 2/22/12 -

Liability issues surrounding the use of E15 remain a major concern for many retailers when considering offering the fuel to customers driving 2001 and newer vehicles. The U.S. EPA recently approved required health effects and emissions testing for E15, bringing the fuel one step closer to commercial availability for those drivers.

<http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/8594/retailers-want-liability-protection-before-considering-e15>

Greenwire - Company touts new enzyme as key to lowering cellulosic costs - 2/22/12 - The Danish enzyme manufacturer Novozymes unveiled a new enzyme today that the company says will make cellulosic biofuel cost-competitive with corn ethanol and gasoline.

<http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/rss/2012/02/22/15>

Climate 411 - Landmark Environmental Court Battle on Horizon - 2/22/12 - On Feb. 28 and 29, the Federal Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. will hear oral arguments in challenges to EPA's landmark clean air measures to protect American's health and well-being from the clear and present danger of climate pollution.

<http://blogs.edf.org/climate411/2012/02/22/landmark-environmental-court-battle-on-horizon/>

Inside EPA - EPA Softens Lead Risk Findings - 2/22/12 - EPA in its latest draft science assessment for its review of the agency's lead air standard softens earlier conclusions about adverse impacts on ecosystems from lead in the environment, which could weaken the case for the agency to pursue a stricter "secondary" national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) to protect the ecosystems.

<http://insideepa.com/20120222391035/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/epa-softens-lead-risk-findings/menu-id-97.html>

Inside EPA - States Reject Air Force Risk Cleanup Plan As Out Of Step With Superfund - 2/22/12 -

State waste managers are strongly objecting to a draft Air Force policy that generally favors use of EPA risk values -- even when they are less conservative than state values -- to set cleanup levels, charging it violates Superfund law and would likely prompt formal cleanup disputes in many states, causing delays in cleanup and land reuse.

<http://insideepa.com/20120222391047/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/states-reject-air-force-risk-cleanup-plan-as-out-of-step-with-superfund/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Advances Controversial Guide Clarifying Scope Of Clean Water Act - 1/22/12 -

EPA is advancing its controversial guidance clarifying when isolated wetlands, intermittent streams and other marginal waters are subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act (CWA), despite strong calls from industry, GOP lawmakers and others for the agency to scrap the measure.

<http://insideepa.com/20120222391060/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-advances-controversial-guide-clarifying-scope-of-clean-water-act/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - RFS Under Threat In Transportation Bill, As Biofuels Face Cuts In Farm Bill - 2/22/12 -

Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), a longstanding biofuels supporter and a senior Democrat on the Agriculture Committee, is raising concerns over a proposed amendment to the transportation bill that would terminate EPA's renewable fuel standard (RFS) -- and, Harkin says, complicate his push to restore Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding for key biofuel programs in the Farm Bill reauthorization.

<http://cleanenergyreport.com/Clean-Energy-General/Congress-Watch/rfs-under-threat-in-transportation-bill-as-biofuels-face-cuts-in-farm-bill/menu-id-782.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Issues Guide For Regional Reviews Of State Funds For UST Cleanups - 2/21/12 -

EPA has issued guidance to its regions to ensure the adequacy of reviews they conduct of state financial assurance funds used to clean up federally-regulated underground storage tanks (USTs). The guidance lays out recommended procedures and factors to weigh in monitoring the soundness of the funds.

<http://insideepa.com/Environmental-Policy-Alert/Environmental-Policy-Alert-02/22/2012/epa-issues-guide->

[for-regional-reviews-of-state-funds-for-ust-cleanups/menu-id-132.html](http://insideepa.com/Environmental-Policy-Alert/Environmental-Policy-Alert-02/22/2012/states-split-over-key-provisions-in-epas-underground-storage-tank-plan/menu-id-132.html)

Inside EPA - States Split Over Key Provisions In EPA's Underground Storage Tank Plan - 2/21/12 - States appear split over several key provisions in EPA's proposed underground storage tank (UST) rule, the first overhaul of the requirements since 1988, including the proposed deadlines for installing secondary containment systems and testing requirements for spill prevention and other equipment.
<http://insideepa.com/Environmental-Policy-Alert/Environmental-Policy-Alert-02/22/2012/states-split-over-key-provisions-in-epas-underground-storage-tank-plan/menu-id-132.html>

Inside EPA - Activists Cite Rights Complaint In Call For EPA To Release Coal Ash Rule - 2/21/12 - Environmentalists are stepping up calls for EPA to quickly release a coal ash disposal rule by citing a new complaint alleging that transfer of tons of coal ash to a mostly poor, black Alabama county violated the Civil Rights Act, saying the claim highlights dangerous ash disposal practices in the absence of strict federal waste rules for the material.
<http://insideepa.com/Environmental-Policy-Alert/Environmental-Policy-Alert-02/22/2012/activists-cite-rights-complaint-in-call-for-epa-to-release-coal-ash-rule/menu-id-132.html>

Inside EPA - Bid To Resolve Cement MACT Remand - 2/21/12 - EPA and the Portland cement industry are asking a federal appeals court to give them more time to address the court's ruling remanding a cement air toxics rule to the agency, saying the sides are in talks on EPA's response to the remand that could result in an agreement preventing the need for industry to ask the court to reconsider its decision.
<http://insideepa.com/201202212391014/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/bid-to-resolve-cement-mact-remand/menu-id-97.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Rejects Lead Tackle Ban - 2/21/12 - EPA has rejected environmentalists' revised petition calling for a tailored ban under federal chemicals law of fishing tackle containing lead, clearing the way for the issue to return to federal court which has stayed litigation on activists' earlier petition seeking a broader – and potentially precedent-setting -- ban of the metal under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).
<http://insideepa.com/201202212391015/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/epa-rejects-lead-tackle-ban/menu-id-97.html>

Inside EPA - Judges Appear To Raise Doubts Over Industry Suit On EPA's NO2 NAAQS - 2/21/12 - Federal appeals court judges at Feb. 21 oral arguments appeared to raise doubts over industry's lawsuit targeting EPA's strict nitrogen dioxide (NO2) air standard, questioning the merits of industry's attacks on the science underpinning the standard and claims that EPA erred by immediately applying the standard in Clean Air Act permits.
<http://insideepa.com/201202222391021/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/judges-appear-to-raise-doubts-over-industry-suit-on-epas-no2-naaqs/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Approves E15 Health Study But Warns Of Further Testing Requirements - 2/21/12 - EPA has approved an ethanol industry study showing limited human health harms from allowing a 15-percent ethanol (E15) blend in the nation's fuel supply, a key step in the industry's bid to win approval for E15, but the agency is also warning of new testing mandates under its forthcoming Tier III air quality rule that could require further testing before registering the fuel.
<http://insideepa.com/201202222391022/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-backs-e15-health-study-but-warns-of-further-testing-requirements/menu-id-95.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

2/29-3/2/12 – 2012 Combined Federal Campaign Training, San Antonio, Texas. Contacts: Mark Hague, 7546, and Julia Cacho, 7071

3/6/12 - Smoke Management Series radio interview with Eric Atkinson, Kansas State University, Regional Office. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

3/14/12 – Environmental Protection in Indian Country (EPIC) Training, Regional Office. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

***3/15/12** – Women's History Month event with Kay Barnes, Regional Office. Contacts: Cecilia Tapia, 7733 and Amy Algoe-Eakin, 7942.

3/19/12 - National Tanks Conference & Expo, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Margaret Stockdale, 7936 and Julia Cacho, 7071

3/28/12 – Joint Annual Conference of the American Water Works Association and Missouri Water Environment Association, Osage Beach, Mo. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071, Karen Flournoy, 7782

***3/30/12** – Kansas State University visit, Manhattan, Kan. Contact: Damon Frizell, 7560

4/24/12 – Washington University Environmental Policy Course, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Beckie Himes, 7253, and Julia Cacho, 7071

5/3/12 – St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association Energy and Environment Council Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contacts: Becky Weber, 7487 and Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

2/23/12 - Agricultural Business Council Monthly Meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

***2/28 - 3/1/12** - Attend Upper Mississippi River Basin Association Meeting, Davenport, Iowa. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

3/13/12 - Northeast Nebraska Stakeholders, West Point, Neb. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

Other Events

AWMD

3/1/12 - Commission on Emergency Planning and Response Meeting, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383.

3/9/12 – Redistribution of EPA Region 7 outreach materials to Education Network members, Regional Office. Contact: Marcus Rivas, 7669.

3/27 – 29/12 – 2012 WORKS Conference (recycling, household hazardous waste, energy from Waste and composting), Dodge City, Kan. Contact: James Callier, 7646

3/28/12 - Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Outreach to the Eastern Kansas Oil and Gas Association, Ottawa, Kan. Contact: Alan Hancock, 7647.

3/28/12 - Eastern Kansas Oil and Gas Association, EPCRA outreach meeting, Ottawa, Kan. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383.

4/3-5/12 - Kansas Local Emergency Planning Committee conference, Salina, Kan. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383.

4/26/12 - Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Outreach to Sunbelt Environmental, Springfield, Mo. Contact: Alan Hancock, 7647.

CNSL

2/29 - 3/2/12 - Advanced Civil Environmental Enforcement Seminar, Columbia, S.C. Contact: David Cozad, 7587

3/12-15/12 - FEM/TEM meeting, Denver, Colo. Contact: Alyse Stoy, 7826

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

2/28/12 - Society of American Military Engineers Industry Day Education and Training Workshop, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chester Stovall, 7549

RA/OPA

2/21-23/12 – Community Interviews, Compass Plaza Well Site, Rogersville, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

2/27/12 – Public Availability Session, 10th Street Site, Columbus Neb. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

2/28/12 – Public Meeting, Chemplex Site, Camanche, Iowa. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

***2/29-3/1/12** – State Legislature, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

3/6/12 – Meeting with Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Legislative Liaison, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

3/7/12 – Meetings with the offices of U.S. Senators Harkin and Grassley, and U.S. Representatives Boswell and Latham, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

3/8/12 – Attend Iowa Legislature Committee meetings, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

SUPR

2/24/12 - Mercury and Hazardous Categorization (HazCat) Training for First Responders, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Eric Nold, 7488

2/28/12 - 10th Street Superfund Site Public Meeting, Columbus, Neb. Contact: Eric Nold, 7488

3/1/12 - Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response (CEPR) meeting, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Mary Peterson, 7882

3/13-14/12 - FEMA's Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Williams, 7625

4/10-12/12 - Oil Program Manager's meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

3/27-29/12 - OSC Readiness Training Board meeting, location TBD. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

4/17-19/12 - Region 7 Regional Response Team meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Janice Kroone, 7005

5/1-3/12 - National Response Team/Regional Response Team Co-Chairs meeting, location TBD, Contact: Janice Kroone, 7005

WWPD

2/28-29/12 - Kansas Water Conference, Wichita, Kan. Contact: Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413, David Garrett, 7159

3/1/12 - Kansas Rural Water Association workplan meeting, Manhattan, Kan. Contact: Stephanie Lindberg, 7423

3/5-7/12 - 2012 Iowa Water Conference, Ames, Iowa. Contacts: Steve Kovac, 7698, John Reyna, 7021

3/12-15/12 - Joint Water Quality Standards Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contacts: John DeLashmit, 7821, Ann Lavaty, 7370

3/26-29/12 - 2012 Kansas Rural Water Association Conference & Exposition, Wichita, Kan. Contact: Doug Brune, 7178

4/16-20/12 - National TMDL/303(d) Coordinators Meeting, San Francisco, Calif. Contacts: Tabatha Adkins, 7128, Bruce Perkins, 7067

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